



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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EPA issues designations for air quality standards ***All Kentucky counties designated as "attainment/unclassifiable"***

FRANKFORT, KY (Oct. 9, 2009) – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued final area designations for the 24-hour national air quality standards for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).

EPA identified areas as either "nonattainment," "unclassifiable/attainment" or "unclassifiable." All counties in Kentucky have been designated as attainment/unclassifiable.

"This is continuing proof that Kentucky's air quality is improving even in the face of ever lowering standards," said John Lyons, director of the Energy and Environment Cabinet's Division for Air Quality. "This trend is tremendous news for the thousands of Kentuckians that suffer from cardio and pulmonary diseases," Lyons added.

EPA revised the 24-hour fine particle standards to 35 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³) in 2006. The air monitoring data from 2005 to 2007 showed nine counties in Kentucky were violating the standard based on a three-year average. Upon consideration of 2008 data, those counties now meet the standard for the three-year period of 2006-2008 and will be designated as attainment/unclassifiable.

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